

RadioShack 12-261

EasyStart Guide for Schools

This RadioShack 12-261 Weatheradio will alert you to weather and civil emergencies in your school's local area. You will need to program your weather radio to receive information for your specific school.

This radio comes with a manufacturer's manual, which should be saved along with this EasyStart Guide. If for some reason this EasyStart Guide for Schools is all you have, here are some simple reminders to allow you to operate your NOAA radio.

Batteries	<p>The RadioShack 12-261 takes one 9-volt battery.</p> <p>Install the battery and hook up the power cord in the port in the back of the radio labeled DC 9V. Make sure the radio cord is plugged into an active wall socket, since leaving the radio on with just battery power will drain it in 3 days.</p>
General information for setup	<p>Here is some basic information on how to navigate the controls on the RadioShack 12-261.</p> <p>On the front of the 12-261, there are a MENU button and four (4) arrow buttons: right [▶], left [◀], up [▲] and down [▼].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The [MENU ●] button acts like a start and stop button• The [▶] button is like a “yes” or “I choose”• The [◀] button allows you to go back• The [▲] and [▼] buttons act like a computer scroll function, taking you to your choices <p>An extended delay while programming, or pressing the MENU button, will take you back to the normal LCD display screen.</p>
Alert options	<p>The 12-261 has two Alert options to choose from, voice and tone. See the User's Manual for a description of each option.</p> <p>If you want to control the release of information (such as an AMBER Alert) and minimize rumors among students and other visitors who may overhear broadcasts, it is suggested you use the TONE Alert. In this mode, the Alert tones will sound for five minutes. To turn the alert off sooner, press WEATHER; the Alert tone will end and the alert description and duration will appear.</p>

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Setting the time	<p>This weather radio has a time clock and an alarm clock. To set the time, you must first set the alarm; however, if you do not intend to use the alarm clock feature, you can turn off the switch on the back of the radio labeled ALARM (snooze, off, on).</p> <p>To set the alarm and the time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Press the CLOCK button (located on top of the radio) to enter ALARM mode. A bell symbol (🔔) will appear next to the time when it is in ALARM mode.2. Hold down the clock button for about 2 seconds until you see a flashing line3. Set the alarm hour (note the PM indicator on the LCD display) with the [▲] and/or [▼] keys, then press [▶]4. Set the alarm minutes with the [▲] and/or [▼] keys, then press [▶]; a beep will sound and the alarm is now set5. Press CLOCK6. Press CLOCK and hold until flashing digits appear7. Use the [▲] and/or [▼] keys, to set the Clock hour (note the PM indicator on the LCD display)8. Press [▶]; the minute digits flash9. Use the [▲] and/or [▼] keys to set minutes, then press [▶] to confirm
Setting your Channel	<p>Part of programming your 12-261 is setting the appropriate channel for receiving weather and hazard alerts for your school's area.</p> <p>To set your NOAA Weather Channel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Press the [MENU ●] button2. Press [▶]; AUTO will appear3. Press [▶]. The 12-261 will search for an available channel. When it finds one, it will beep and a channel will be displayed (for example, "CHANNEL 7"); then AUTO will appear4. Press [MENU ●] to exit <p>If the radio cannot find a channel, the lights will flash and SIGNAL LOSS appears on the screen. You will then need to take steps to improve your reception; see Improving Your Reception below.</p>

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<p>Finding and setting your FIPS (SAME Geographic) code</p>	<p>Your RadioShack 12-261 will receive all the messages sent from the NWR transmission tower, which has a range of around 30 to 40 miles. Setting your radio to the FIPS or Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) geographic code for the specific county your school is in will eliminate messages meant for your surrounding areas.</p> <p>To find your SAME geographic code:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to the website www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr. 2. Click on “Station Listings” on the left hand side of the page 3. Click on “County by county coverage” in the middle of the page 4. Click on your state 5. Scroll down the page to find your COUNTY/CITY AREA; the SAME geographic code is the six (6) digit number in the second column. <p>You can also call 1-888-697-7263 to get the SAME code number/s.</p> <p>To set your FIPS (SAME geographic code) location:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Press [MENU ●] 2. Press [▲] until LOCATION appears 3. Press [▶] 4. Press [▲] until SINGLE appears; if you have decided to select more than one SAME location, select MULTIPLE 01, 02, etc. 5. Press [▶]; you will see - - - - - (7 dashes) 6. Press [▶]; until the second blank space flashes 7. Use the [▲] and [▼] to set that flashing digit, then proceed to the second digit (the [◀] will take you back to earlier digits if necessary); set all the flashing digits 8. Press [MENU ●] <p>You have now set the FIPS (SAME Geographical) LOCATION code for your school. If you wish to receive alerts for other areas, such as an adjacent county where some of your students live, start again with step number 1 above. When you get to step number 4, however, choose MULTIPLE. Set the additional location codes by following steps 5 through 8 above.</p>
<p>Operation check</p>	<p>If you have found a channel, set at least one FIPS (SAME geographic) local area code, and set the clock, you should now check the LCD display. Across the top of the screen you should see CHANNEL #.</p>

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	<p>You should see an icon of a tower in the lower right hand corner of the display. You should check the back of the radio to see that the Alert switch is in the ON position. You can push the WEATHER/SNOOZE button to hear a current weather forecast. You will see a flashing battery icon if the battery is low or disconnected. For instructions on programming additional features of this radio, see the Owner's Manual.</p> <p>NOTE: You should receive periodic warning tests every Wednesday between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.</p>
Improving your reception	<p>Reception problems can be improved by changing the radio's position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move the radio away from metal cabinets• Move the radio higher and closer to windows <p>Reception can also be improved by using an external antenna available from the manufacturer and local electronic or science stores. Often a simple, flat T-shaped dipole antenna similar to the type used for stereo receivers is sufficient. For more information, see "Methods to Improve Reception of Weather Radio Broadcasts" online at http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt/index.php?page=nwr/antenna.</p>
More information	<p>Detailed instructions can be found in your RadioShack Model 12-261 User's Manual or on the Public-Alert-Radio web site at http://public-alert-radio.nws.noaa.gov/proginfo.htm.</p>

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